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# Nonpoint Source Training News, January 2014

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

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## Maine Nonpoint Source Training News



January 2014

### ***Commissioner's Corner***

Maine is known for its iconic coastline, rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. Contractors working in the shoreland zone are on the front lines of protecting these valuable -- both environmentally and economically -- water bodies by preventing their degradation. We also need to monitor them to assess our efforts. Last month, I had the pleasure of meeting with Scott Williams and Roberta Hill of the Maine Volunteering Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), a network of over 1,000 volunteers located across the state that have been trained and provided equipment to collect important data from Maine lakes.



Their scientific data on water quality indicators is critical assistance for DEP. We cannot do our work without VLMP and rely on their quality science, passion and training to ensure thousands of volunteers (some of whom count their service in decades!) are engaged and eager to assist each year. With a very small budget, the work of VLMP is an outstanding service to Maine by being at the

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forefront of keeping our lakes healthy and safe.

The department also relies on volunteers to monitor and report on the health of Maine's beaches through the Healthy Beaches program. Their work ensures that we can keep Maine's coastline beaches safe and open for swimming year after year! DEP is proud to support VLMP and the Healthy Beaches programs, and we look forward to continuing these successful partnerships.

While there is no "silver bullet" to keep or improve the water quality in Maine, your work to prevent issues plays a significant role to ensure Maine remains known for its clean water. Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Nonpoint Source Training sessions and learning more about how to protect these valuable resources.

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### **Training Sessions Slated for The Winter/Spring 2014**

The Department of Environmental Protection's Nonpoint Source Training and Resource Center is offering a robust schedule of classes for the Winter/Spring of 2014. The Department will again provide training in erosion and sediment control practices to ensure that the remaining excavation contractors in the state who did not get DEP certified by January 1, 2013, have a final opportunity to attend training and obtain needed certification. Classes in **Basic and Advanced Erosion and Sediment Control Practices** will be held in 9 locations covering Aroostook, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, Lincoln, Piscataquis, and York counties. These sessions are sponsored by private organizations, municipalities and local soil & water conservation districts.

Two new classes will be introduced this winter/spring, The first is called the **Design of Erosion Control Practices for Engineers and Consultants**. It was developed to provide guidance to these groups on the practices the Department recommends for use by the state's excavation contractors. Three sessions of this program will be held throughout the

state.

The second new class being introduced is the **Inspection of Stormwater and Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs)**. This program is designed to provide guidance on proper inspection procedures to ensure compliance. The class is actually completed in two separate sessions. The morning session features the inspection of stormwater BMPs while the afternoon is erosion control BMPs. Participants can attend one or both of the sessions depending on their interests.

Finally, for contractors interested in instruction and certification in the installation of septic systems, the Center in conjunction with staff from the Departments of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, will hold four classes on **Septic System Installation**. The day-long sessions will take place in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Hancock and Penobscot counties and will qualify contractors to be certified in septic system installation by DHHS.

See the schedule below for information on how to register for a session.

#### **Basic and Advanced Erosion Control Practices**

**Wiscasset**, January 22, Lincoln County Emergency Communications Center

To register, contact Bob Faunce at 784-2617

**Sanford**, January 29, City Hall Council Chambers

To register, contact Donna Gray at 324-9135

**Ellsworth**, February 4, City Hall

To register, contact Lori Roberts at 667-4810

**Greenville**, February 6, Town Office

To register, contact Jack Hart at 695-2421

**Caribou**, March 6, Caribou Motor Inn

To register, contact Kathryn Michaud at 764-4153 Ext. 130

**Bridgton**, March 11, LEA Headquarters

To register, contact Colin Holme at 647-8580

**Augusta**, April 7, AGC Training Room

To register, contact Sandy Metrano or Don Partridge at 622-4741

**Litchfield**, April 11, Town Office

To register, contact Steve Ochmanski at 268-4721

**Augusta**, May 6, AGC Training Room,  
To register, contact Sandy Metrano or Don Partridge at 622-4741

### **Design of Erosion Control Practices for Engineers and Consultants**

Session #N1459 **Brewer**, March 5, 2014, Jeff's Catering  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Session #N1460 **Augusta**, March 12, Augusta Armory  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Session #N1462 **Portland**, March 19, Portland Water District  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

### **Inspection of Stormwater and Erosion Control Best Management Practices**

Morning Session #N1464 **Brewer** (stormwater) April 2, Jeff's Catering  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Morning Session #N1467 **Portland** (stormwater) April 9, Portland Water District  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Afternoon Session #N1465 **Brewer** (erosion control) April 2, Jeff's Catering  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Afternoon Session #N1468 **Portland** (erosion control) April 9, Portland Water District  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

### **Septic System Installation**

Session #N1463 **Bangor**, March 27, Parks and Recreation Center  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Session #N1466 **Franklin**, April 3, Community Center  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Session #N1461 **Poland**, March 13, Fire Station  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

Session #N1469 **Houlton**, April 15, Town Council Chambers  
To register contact JETCC at 253-8020

## 2013 Online Re-certification Course and DVD Available in the Next Few Weeks

Many certified contractors participated in the continuing education sessions in 2013. If you are a certified contractor whose certification has, or is about to expire and you are looking for credits to maintain your certification status, DEP staff are finalizing two options for you. You may request a pre-recorded DVD from the Center and complete a 10 question quiz or you can view the course and complete the quiz online on the Department's website at your convenience.

If you have already placed your order for a DVD and have not received it yet, we appreciate your patience. If you are waiting to view the course online, please continue to check the DEP website. This is a new endeavor, which will make it more convenient for you to view and take the quiz when it's best for you. Thank you for your patience while we familiarize ourselves with these new programs and procedures to ensure a good quality product.

For those of you concerned about the DVD / online course's availability only after expiration of your certification, the Department has provided for a grace period so that you can maintain certification until you have had an opportunity to view the course.

If you have any additional questions or concerns with regard to continuing education, please call the Center at 215-9237.

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## Number of Certified Individuals now over 2450, Demand for Classes Expected to Lessen

Since January, the Department has certified over 850 individuals bringing the total number certified to 2458. With approximately 1100 excavation companies in the state, we anticipate that this was probably the "final surge" of individuals becoming involved with the program and that demand for training will subside in 2014. Nevertheless, we have scheduled a full slate of training sessions in **Basic and Advanced Erosion and Sediment Control Practices** this winter and spring in the event that we have miscalculated the need. The number of classes offered in the Fall of 2014 will probably be substantially less. If you have put off taking the certification class, you may want to sign up soon, since you may be limited in your choices of location in the future.

There are also over 2000 individuals who have completed the course and have not taken that final step in getting one of their construction sites inspected. If you are one of those individuals, please note that there currently is no deadline date as to when you need to have this inspection completed. To avoid being precluded from working in the shoreland zone we strongly encourage you get this evaluation done in 2014.

For more information on the certification process, please contact Bill Laflamme at 215-9237.

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## Fall 2013 Training Season Hosts over 300 Participants

The Department's NPS Training and Resource Center's Fall training season trained individuals in five of the state's 16 counties. Programs were held for excavation contractors, snow removal contractors, property managers, business owners and certified individuals.

Instruction in erosion and sediment control was again provided to contractors and others throughout the state. A total of 7 courses were held. In all, **239** participants attended these sessions.

For snow removal contractors, property managers and business owners, a course on salt management was held prior to the winter season. Individuals attending were provided with information on the impacts of salt as well as ways to minimize its use through pre-treatment and "brining". A total of **20** participants attended this program.

Finally, in December, the Center held three continuing education courses for certified individuals. This year's sessions focused on the prevention of turbidity from construction sites. The program was quite popular with **64** individuals participating and over **35** individuals ordering it to view on DVD.

The Department would like to thank the instructors, advisory committee members, sponsors, JETCC and administrative staff who made these sessions so successful!